

2/1/99
WOB

The family of Frances Barrill Baker is grateful for your message of merciful sympathy betokening completion of this precious life.

The cherished life and sought to live.

For us together, our beloved Frances lightened and brightened each day on Earth, for 58 years.

To Joshua and Marguerite
Dear Frances felt for you an abiding affection - one of those rare bonds between people that are deeply human. So your thoughts are especially treasured. Frances' courage and bravery in trying, over two hopeless years, every biomedical therapy proposed, is a legacy - along with a universe of other qualities that will be with us forever. She knew how much you both have done to lessen human suffering, and was heartened by the theme.

She also keenly recognized and remarked on the reality that the present distinction and potential of the Rockefeller Univ. have come largely from your role (with complementary action from Ned Seitz). Each element that you perceived and fostered is becoming primary for the University in the next century - the infusion of the eight mature leaders, the link with H. Mt. (leading to largest growth in research facilities), the young lab. leaders (via Darnell), the extension of NIH participation, the estate encouragement of new ventures, improved recruitment, molecular biology, physics and chemistry, to mention a few.

correspondingly, the endowment group when corrected for inflation, close to present more sensational levels. Residential centers, On fiscal management, not only did we deliberately decide to spend some capital on these initiatives, but the fallacy that this was a deficit has now been officially corrected in Board session, affirmed by DR.

Now the point of this chronology is, as you correctly assert, "the most painful of times" turns is in tribute to the deep interest and respect Frances exercised for the community of the University and your parts in it.

Thinking of our many joint interests in the medical and other scientific resources of the US, when I so much prided getting to know Bush, I hardly need to add that the dreadful deficiency in knowledge and its distribution, that worried us decades ago, remains. We had long connections with the MD Anderson in Houston (through Welch) where Freireich and Cabellles have the largest active program in lymphoma clinical research - all cooperative but wholly futile. In fact Hirsch was fabulously helpful and generous in covering the York Ave. sources - all futile and even superficial. You have probably noticed the same aspects of the Mayo - I can readily believe that they sent their patient away "cured". Never the future!

Thus our devastating loss gives this moment for saying what the Lederbergs meant to Frances.

Bill

2/5/99